

generally, the lower limit on the percent bond area suitable for forming the pattern-unbonded nonwoven region 4B of the present invention is the point at which fiber pull-out excessively reduces the surface integrity and durability of the pattern-unbonded material 4. The required percent bond area will be affected by a number of factors, including the type(s) of polymeric materials used in forming the fibers or filaments of the nonwoven web, whether the nonwoven web is a single- or multi-layer fibrous structure, whether the nonwoven web is unbonded or pre-bonded prior to passing into the pattern-unbonding assembly, and the like. Pattern-unbonded nonwoven materials having percent bond areas ranging from about 25% to about 50%, and more particularly from about 36% to about 50%, have been found suitable. In an embodiment, the percent bond area of the region 4B is less than the percent bond area of the center region 4A. For example, the percent bond area of the region 4B is less than 50% when the percent bond area of the center region 4A is 50% or greater. The percent bond area of region 4B is less than 36% with when the percent bond area of the center region 4A is 36% or greater. The percent bond area of region 4B is less than 25% with when the percent bond area of the center region 4A is 25% or greater.

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Please amend page 32, lines 17-30 and page 33, lines 1-12 to read as follows:

Next a cross-machine direction ("CD") tensile test was performed as follows. The sample was cut to three inches wide. The samples were then cut [the samples] on the dividing line 101 between the A and B sides. The samples of separated A and B sides remained paired together. Next the samples were cut so they were 4.5 inches long. Each sample was tested for CD

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tensile strength using the test as generally outlined below, modified for 2" x 4.5" samples instead of the normal 3" x 6". The testing procedure for the CD tensile strength was generally as follows: This test measures the load (strength) in pounds. In the strip tensile test, two clamps, each having two jaws with each jaw having a facing in contact with the sample, hold the material in the same plane, usually vertically, separated by 2 inches and move apart at a specified rate of extension. Values for strip tensile strength and strip elongation are obtained using a sample size of 2 inches by 4.5 inches, with a jaw facing size of 1 inch high by 3 inches wide, and a constant rate of extension of 300 mm/min. The Sintech 2 tester, available from the Sintech Corporation, 1001 Sheldon Dr., Cary, N.C. 27513, the Instron Model TM, available from the Instron Corporation, 2500 Washington St., Canton, Mass. 02021, or a Thwing-Albert Model INTELLECT II available from the Thwing-Albert Instrument Co., 10960 Dutton Rd., Phila., Pa. 19154 may be used for this test. Results are reported as the tensile strength per sample in the cross-machine direction (CD). The results are set forth in Table 2. The CD tensile for code B (more highly bonded pattern-unbonded sample side) is higher than code A (normal bonded pattern-unbonded sample side): Code A avg CD tensile = 13.43 lbs; Code B avg CD tensile = 22.76 lbs. Accordingly, the more highly bonded, code B sample side was stronger than the normal, loop providing sample side A. In an embodiment of the present invention a Code A pattern is used for the center region 4A, 76A or 96A. In an embodiment of the present invention a Code B pattern is used for the outer region 4B, 76B or 96B.

Please replace Table 1 on page 34 to read as follows:

Table 1 Test Results

Color

Code	b	Code	b
A	-0.3	B	-0.21
A	-0.26	B	-0.02
A	-0.24	B	0.04
A	-0.11	B	-0.26
A	-0.02	B	-0.11
A	-0.14	B	0.04
A	-0.01	B	-0.09
A	-0.17	B	-0.19
A	-0.3	B	-0.21
A	-0.2	B	0.04
A	-0.18	B	-0.19
A	-0.15	B	0.05
A	-0.43	B	-0.19
A	-0.23	B	0.06
A	-0.2	B	-0.02
A	-0.16	B	0.1
A	-0.17	B	-0.14

A	-0.13	B	-0.07
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A	-0.24	B	-0.17
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A	-0.23	B	-0.2
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avg	-0.1935	-0.087
std dev	0.095161	0.114253

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Cont

Please replace Table 2 on page 35 to read as follows:

Table 2

CD Tensile Strength

Code	lbs	Code	lbs
A	11.57	B	23.42

A	11.75	B	23.38
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A	14.59	B	23.95
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A	15.3	B	18.34
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A	14.42	B	23.4
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A	12.95	B	24.05
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avg	13.43
std dev	1.570669

avg	22.75667
std dev	2.183856